would focus on collection and sharing of information and closely monitoring the activities of terrorists/militants, including those backed by ISI for follow up action. Some States such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Tripura have set up such cells. However, some other States have also set up mechanisms for counter-terrorist measures, such as anti-terrorist squads, special task forces, dedicated units etc.

SIMI operating in the grab of secret outfit

698. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "SIMI operating in the grab of secret outfit" appearing in Hindustan Times dated 31st December, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details; and

(c) what steps have been taken to check the activities of the secret outfit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) There is no specific information with the Government of India that SIMI is operating in the grab of a secret outfit. However, the SIMI activists are continuing with their efforts to carry on their activities under the banner of different fronts. A close watch is being kept by the law enforcement agencies on their activities.

ISI's role in madarsas

699. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 125 madarsas in the districts along the West Bengal-Bangladesh borders have been harbouring terrorists belonging to various Islamic Groups and have been preaching terror;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan's ISI has also been active against India through these madarsas; and

(c) if so, what immediate and fool-proof steps are being taken by Government to close down these madarsas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government